



# VA Salt Lake City Health Care System

## Postgraduate Year 1 (PGY-1) Pharmacy Residency

**VA Mission Statement:** *To fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans. The medical center aspires to this goal by providing exceptional health care and improving the wellbeing of our Veterans.*

### VA Salt Lake City (VASLCHCS) Residency Programs:

The VASLCHCS offers three ASHP accredited programs:

- PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency
- PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency
- PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency

The goal for these 12 month post graduate experiences is to further advance the resident's knowledge, skills, and confidence in clinical practice pharmacy settings.

### PGY-1 Program:

There are three PGY-1 positions at the VASLCHCS. We offer a traditional program emphasizing acute and ambulatory care clinical learning experiences. The goal is to prepare residents for acute and ambulatory pharmacy careers, adjunct faculty positions, or further PGY-2 training.

### PGY-1 Program Purpose:

The PGY-1 pharmacy residency program builds on the Doctor of Pharmacy education, to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists responsible for medication-related care of patients with a wide range of conditions. Upon completion of the residency, residents will be eligible for board certification in pharmacotherapy and PGY-2 pharmacy residency training.

**VA**



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## 2020-2021 PGY-1 Residents

Amanda Merck, Kelsey Merlo, Gursimran Kaur

## PGY-1 Residency Rotation Description:

The residency program has both required core and elective learning experiences. The required learning experience descriptions (LED) illustrate the foundation of the PGY-1 rotation experience. The resident also selects four electives to pursue clinical interests and customize their PGY-1. As needed, the residency program will network with other sites (University of Utah, Poison Control Center, and Intermountain Health Care Systems) to provide additional specialty care rotations not available at the VA. These affiliated site rotations are subject to preceptor, site, and licensing availability and are to be coordinated by the Residency Program Director (RPD).

# PGY-1 Program Curriculum

Orientation	Rotation Duration
Human Resources/Orientation	1 week

Core Rotations	Rotation Duration
VA Systems (Inpatient and Outpatient Pharmacy)	3 weeks
Internal Medicine	6 weeks
Primary Care	6 weeks
Critical Care (Medical ICU or Surgical ICU)	4 weeks
Management	4 weeks
Inpatient Psychiatric Unit (IPU)	4 weeks

Longitudinal Rotations	Rotation Duration
Inpatient Pharmacy Staffing	August-December: 2.5 hours/week
Ambulatory Care	January-June: 4 hours/week

Elective Rotations (choose 4) Duration= 4 weeks		
Acute Care Electives	Ambulatory Care Electives	Mental Health Electives
Acute Care Cardiology	Anticoagulation Clinic	Outpatient Mental Health
Acute Care Surgery	Geriatrics Specialty Clinic	Poison Control Center
Advanced Heart Failure/ Cardiac Transplant *	Hematology/Oncology	Primary Care- Substance Use Disorder/Opioid Safety Initiative
Antimicrobial Stewardship	Pain and Palliative Care*	Services for Outpatient Addiction Recovery (SOAR)
Emergency Department	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R)*	Substance Abuse Recovery and Rehab Treatment Program (SARRTP)*
Infectious Disease*	Women's Clinic	<b>May also repeat any core experience</b>

\*Rotations that have both inpatient and outpatient components



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## Other PGY-1 Requirements:

- Weekend clinical staffing (*every third weekend*)
- Research/Quality improvement project
- Medication use evaluation
- Poster at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting
- Project presentation at Mountain States Regional Residency Conference
- ACPE certified continuing education presentation
- BLS (*required*) and ACLS (*optional*) certificate
- Attend medication safety committee meetings
- Monthly leadership seminar with PGY-2s
- Teaching certificate (*optional*)



**2020-2021 PGY-1 and PGY-2 Residents**  
(Top to bottom, left to right) Tanner Hull, Cathy Yao, Savannah Hansen, Amanda Merck, Kelsey Merlo, Michelle Ton, Gursimran Kaur

## VASLCHCS PGY-1 Salary and Benefits

### VA Pharmacy Resident Salary and Benefits:

The resident in our program is considered a federal full-time employee with a salary and benefit package. Salary is paid by the VA Office of Academic affiliations and rates may increase depending on the current year allocation rate. In addition, residents accrue annual/sick leave and other benefits listed below:

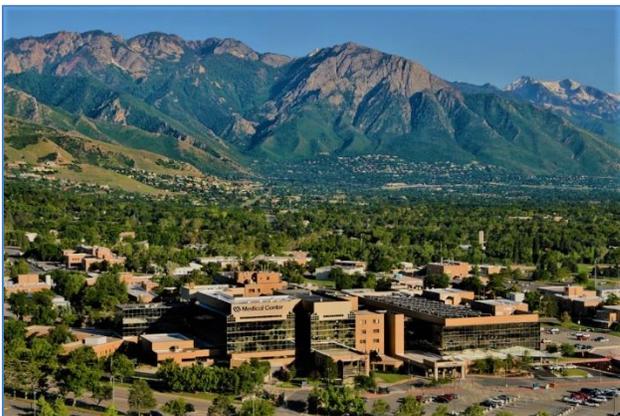
- **Salary:** PGY-1 2019 stipend was \$41,198
- **Health Benefits:** Information on Federal Employment Benefits can be accessed via the following link:  
[http://www.opm.gov/insure/new\\_employ/index.asp?ProgramEd=1](http://www.opm.gov/insure/new_employ/index.asp?ProgramEd=1)
  - Health benefits include Government Health Care Medical Plan and option for dental and life insurance
- **Retirement Benefits:** the resident is not vested and does not have a 401K or matching fund benefit during residency year
- **Holidays:** 11 paid holidays
- **Leave:** both annual and sick leave accrue at 4 hours per pay period (every 2 weeks).
  - Approximately 13 days of annual leave and 13 days of sick leave per year
- **Travel:** travel stipend for ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Mountain States Regional Residency Conference



# Why Choose VASLCHCS Residency?

## About VASLCHCS:

Located on a 70 acre campus situated at the foot of the Wasatch mountain range, the George E. Wahlen Department of Veteran Affairs is a 121 bed tertiary care facility serving Veterans residing within a 25,000 square mile radius within VISN 19. The VASLCHCS is closely affiliated with the University of Utah and Intermountain Healthcare Systems.



## As a resident you can expect:

- A wide variety of available rotations
- To be well integrated and respected among medical teams
- To participate in evidence and guideline-based medicine
- To engage in daily direct patient care activities including rounds, clinical appointments, group classes, etc.
- To practice under a preceptor with full scope of practice
- Great opportunities for post-residency employment within the VA
- To practice with any state pharmacy license
- To practice with high quality and invested preceptors

## Living in Salt Lake City

### About Salt Lake City:

“Life Elevated” – Salt Lake City is located between two mountain ranges, the Wasatch Mountains to the East and the Oquirrh Mountains to the West.

Combining the amenities of a major metropolitan area with the friendliness of a small western city, Salt Lake City is an ideal place to live. A beautiful and vibrant city, Salt Lake combines unparalleled access to natural recreation, a bustling economy, dynamic nightlife, and Utah’s Greatest Snow on Earth. Utah offers five national parks, miles of mountain biking trails and 13 down-hill ski resorts (10 of them less than an hour drive from downtown).

Numerous restaurants, shops, malls, theatres, and outdoor concerts make Salt Lake City an exciting place to live. In addition to professional sporting teams, the city hosts its own symphony and film festivals. No matter what your taste in music or entertainment, you are likely to find something to suit you in and around the city.



## Contact Information:

### Residency Program Director:

*Katie (Athern) Tinker PharmD, BCPS*

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### Residency Program Coordinator:

*Jenni Ladutko PharmD, BCPS*

Email: [jenni-ly.ladutko@va.gov](mailto:jenni-ly.ladutko@va.gov)

### Website:

<https://www.va.gov/salt-lake-city-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/pharmacy-residency-programs/>



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